

Fall 2025 TM Zoning Amendments

Article ____ (Zoning Amendments – Signs)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws as follows, new language shown in bold, deleted language shown in strikethrough:

1. Section 7.2.1 (Definitions) Amend the definition of “Wall Sign” as follows:

Wall Sign: A sign which is permanently affixed to the façade of a building or structure, or to its porch, canopy, awning, such that its exposed face and all sign surface areas are parallel or approximately parallel to the plane of the building or wall to which it is attached or mounted, including such signs as may be affixed to a parapet. Wall signs may include but are not limited to ~~window~~, channel letter, back lighted letter, dimensional letter, box/cabinet, pan face, and push through type signs.

2. Section 7.2.2: Amend as follows:

The following signs do not require a Sign Permit but must be constructed and maintained in accordance with Section 7.2.4(EF) below. Illumination shall be done by external or indirect means only.; Internal illumination is not permitted **except as provided below**.

A. Exempt Signs in All Districts.

1. Flags, emblems, and insignia of any governmental agency except when displayed in connection with commercial promotion.
2. Legal notices or informational devices erected or required by governmental agencies, **which may include internal illumination and light-emitting diodes**.

3. Section 7.2.2 Delete section 7.2.2.8 in its entirety: “~~Temporary festive lighting in observance of a national or religious occasion.~~”

4. Section 7.2.4: Amend Section 7.2.4.C as follows:

C. Sign Illumination. Where this Zoning Bylaw allows illumination of signs in a district, the illumination must conform to the following:

1. All lighting shall be continuous and installed in a manner that will prevent direct light from shining onto any street or adjacent property. Whenever an external artificial light source is used to illuminate a sign, such source shall be located, shielded, and directed so as to not be directly visible from any public street or private residence. External light fixtures shall be hooded or shielded to reduce light trespass. Flashing, traveling, or intermittent light creating flashing, moving, changing, or animated graphics is prohibited, except that a warning sign, a device intended to tell the time and temperature, day and date, or official traffic and directional signs may have changing illumination.

2. Except for clocks, sign illumination is permitted only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., except that the signs of commercial and industrial establishments may be illuminated during any hours that these establishments are open to the public or in operation. This provision shall not apply to illuminated signs at public safety facilities.

3. Only white lights shall be used for the external illumination of a sign. ~~Such illumination shall be shaded, shielded, directed and maintained at a sufficiently low intensity and brightness that it shall not affect the safe vision of operators of vehicles moving within the premises or on any adjacent public or private ways.~~

4. ~~In all districts, no outdoor floodlighting or decorative lighting shall be permitted except lighting primarily designed to illuminate walks, driveways, outdoor living areas, or outdoor recreational facilities, and except temporary holiday lighting in use for not longer than a six week period in any calendar year. Such permanent lighting shall be continuous, external or indirect, and installed in a manner that will prevent direct light from shining onto any street or adjacent property.~~

5.4. The front faces of internally illuminated channel letter type signs shall have non-clear surfaces such that the neon tubing is not directly visible.

5. Section 7.2.4: Delete Section 7.2.4.F.5:

~~5. Landscaping is required around the base of all freestanding signs and a landscaping plan shall be provided with the sign permit application. The minimum landscaped area shall extend at least three feet beyond all sign faces or supporting structures in all directions~~

6. Section 7.2.5: Amend Section 7.2.5.A to correct the reference:

Except as may be limited under Sections **7.2.3 and 7.2.4** ~~7.2.5~~ above or sub-section B below, signs which do not exceed the standards in TABLES 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are allowed by right provided the Building Commissioner issues a Sign Permit therefor. When noted in the TABLES, NA means not applicable.

7. Add a new Section 7.2.5.B.9:

9. Window Signs: In addition to any window signs that are exempt under Section 7.2.2, establishments are allowed window signs in first-floor windows with sign surface area of up to but not exceeding 20% of the square footage of glass in each window. Square footage from one window cannot be used in calculating the allowed sign surface area for any other window. These window signs are subject to obtaining a Sign Permit.

Or act in any manner related thereto.